

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 CU-04 SIL-01 LAB-06 NIC-01 OPR-02

EUR-25 DOTE-00 RSR-01 /138 W
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R 041110Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7051

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJ: ANTI-NIMAIRI DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 1956

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SPORADIC STUDENT-POLICE CONFRONTATIONS
CONTINUE. LAWYERS ARRESTED FOR CRITICAL PETITION. TRIAL OF
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR ACTIVIST ANNOUNCED. CLOSING OF
SCHOOLS EXTENDED. BUT UNLESS STRIKES DEVELOP MOMENTUM,
IMMEDIATE CRISIS IS EBBING. END SUMMARY:

2. EVENTS.

A. STUDENTS. SPORADIC STUDENT-POLICE CONFRONTATIONS
CONTINUED SEPT 2-3 IN KHARTOUM AND OMDURMAN. ACTIVITY
IN KHARTOUM WAS ON SMALL SCALE AND CONFINED VICINITY BUS
STATION WHERE YOUTHS AWAITING TRANSPORTATION HOME
TAUNTED POLICE AND WERE DISPERSED OCCASIONALLY BY
TEAR GAS. ACTIVITY IN OMDURMAN MORE SERIOUS WITH
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OVER 1000 STUDENTS OBSERVED BOTH DAYS WHO SUCCEEDED

IN CLOSING DOWN MARKET (ALSO LOCATED NEAR A BUS STATION).

B. LAWYERS AND DOCTORS. ABOUT 25-30 LAWYERS WERE ARRESTED SEPT 2 FOLLOWING PRESENTATION PETITION CRITICIZING SSU DEPSECGENS ABU GASSIM AND JAAFAR BAKHEIT AS WELL AS KHARTOUM SSU COMMISSIONER MAHDI MUSTAFA FOR URGING "HOME GUARD" AND "YOUNG PIONEERS" TO CONDUCT WITCH HUNTS AND BEATINGS (REFTEL). AMONG ATTORNEYS ARRESTED ARE MIRGHANI AL-NASRI, CHRMN SUDAN BAR (AND HEAD OF SUDAN DEFENSE CTTEE FOR NOEL-MOORE MURDERERS AND LINKED WITH MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD) AND, FAROUK ABU-EISA, PRE-9171 FOREIGN MINISTER. PETITION PRODUCT OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND NOT OF BAR ASSN AS A WHOLE. VP BAGHIR SEPT 2 INDIRECTLY CALLED FOR SUSPENSION EXTRA-LEGAL ACTIVITY AND PRO-NIMAIRI DEMONSTRATIONS TO AVOID EXPLOITATION BY "SABOTEURS AND TRAITORS". SOME DOCTORS HAVE ALSO PRESENTED PETITION AGAINST ARMY PRESENCE INSIDE KHARTOUM HOSPITAL AND CONFRONTATIONS WITH STUDENTS VISITING THERE, INCLUDING TEAR GAS.

C. TRIAL. GOS SEPT 3 ANNOUNCED FORMATION MILITARY COURT TO TRY PROF ZACHARIAH BASHIR AS FOMENTER OF TUDENT UNION ACTIVITY.

D. SCHOOLS. AS OF SEPT 4 ALL SCHOOLS (ELEMENTARY THROUGH UNIVERSITY) HAVE BEEN ORDERED CLOSED IN KHARTOUM PROVINCE AND HIGH SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ABOVE THROUGHOUT REST OF COUNTRY (UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS CLOSURE WILL ALSO AFFECT SCHOOLS IN STRONGLY PRO-NIMAIRI SOUTH).

3. STRIKES. SOME ELEMENTS SUDAN RAILWAYS UNION HAVE DENOUNCED DEMONSTRATIONS AND PLEDGED TO WORK EXTRA HOURS, BUT THERE ARE RECURRENT CREDIBLE RUMORS OTHER SR UNION ELEMENTS HAVE THREATENED TRANSPORTATION STRIKE IN CASE FURTHER BLOODSHED. CHRMN SUDAN RAILWAYS ARRIVED KHARTOUM SEPT 3 ON WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY EMERGENCY TRIP. GOS MECHANIZED TRANSPORT DIVISION (GOS MOTOR POOL) REPORTEDLY PLANS STRIKE FOR 10:00 AM, SEPT 4. WORKERS REPORTEDLY SPLIT AT BATA SHOE FACTORY AND PLANT HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY ARMY.

F. CASUALTIES. EMB BELIEVE WE HAVE CONFIRMED REPORTS OF THREE STUDENTS KILLED IN KHARTOUM (GOS HAS ANNOUNCED ONE) FROM THURSDAY'S EVENTS AND ABOUT 55 INJURED INCLUDING NUMBER GUNSHOT WOUNDS. WE HAVE NO CONFIDENTIAL

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TALLY FROM OMDURMAN.

G. OTHER. SALAH ABDEL AAL, STATE MIN FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTED KHARTOUM FOR ALGIERS TO BRIEF PRESIDENT NIMAIR ON SITUATION. GOS GIVING PUBLICITY TO NUMEROUS PRO-NIMAIRI DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR HAS RESIGNED.

3. COMMENT: UNLESS TRIKE THREATS ARE IMPLEMENTED

AND GAIN MOMENTUM, IMMEDIATE CRISIS IS EBBING. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC RESENTMENT AT WHAT IS VIEWED AS EXCESSIVE GOS FORCE (USE OF ARMY TO OCCUPY UNIVERSITY RATHER THAN POLICE) AND USE OF VIGILANT GANGS. FOCUS OF RESENTMENT IS AGAINST SSU OFFICIALS ABU GASSIM, JAAFAR BAKHEIT AND MAHDI MUSTAFA FOR INTEMPERATE STATEMENTS AND ACTION. VP BAGHIR RECEIVES AT LEAST GRUDGING PRAISE FROM EVEN THOSE UNSYMPATHETIC WITH REGIME AND AT LEAST SOME OF EXCESSES ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE OCCURRED AGAINST HIS ORDER. FRITTS

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